

acting under the procedure prescribed in such cases by the International Congress of Zoology (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**: 136-137), should render a "Declaration" stating that, in the case of a nominal genus established prior to 1st January 1931, with an indication, definition or description without citation of any nominal species, the citation by a later author in connection with the name of such a genus of a bibliographical reference to a book or paper containing the names of nominal species is not to be treated as constituting a distinct reference of the nominal species concerned to the genus in question, it being necessary for this purpose for an author explicitly to cite by name a nominal species as being referable to the genus in question.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS
THE TRIVIAL NAME "CAESIUS" CLOQUET, 1818 (AS PUBLISHED
IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "COLUBER CAESIUS") (CLASS REPTILIA, ORDER SQUAMATA)**

By ARTHUR LOVERIDGE

(*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.*)

Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)531)

During the course of a revisionary study of the African Green snakes commonly referred to the genera *Chlorophis* Hallowell, 1857 (*Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* **1857**: 53) and *Philothamnus* Smith, 1847 (*Ill. Zool. S. Afr.*) (Rept.): pl. lix), I find that the trivial name (*irregularis*) of the commonest and most widely distributed member of the genus *Chlorophis* is antedated.

The trivial name *irregularis* Leach, 1819 (*in* Bowditch, *Miss. Ashanti*: 494 "Fantee, Gold Coast"), as published in the binominal combination *Coluber irregularis*, has been almost consistently applied (in combination either with the name *Ahaetulla* or the name *Chlorophis* or the name *Philothamnus*) to this common reptile since 1858 (Günther), occurring 113 times in the literature.

However, the stability of the name of this species is threatened by the trivial name *caesius* Cloquet, 1818 (*Dict. Sci. nat.*, Paris **11**: 201 "Region of Cape Verde"), as published in the binominal combination *Coluber caesius*, a name which has never been used by anyone, other than its original author Cloquet. The description of *caesius* conforms to that of *irregularis* in all respects, except that the number of its subcaudals is given as sixty-four, whereas the range for *irregularis* is from 97 to 121. I suggest that the tail of the type specimen of *caesius* was truncated, for quite a high percentage of these whip-tailed tree snakes lose the ends of their tails during life. When such a loss occurs early in life, the tail heals over and the terminal point is reproduced, so that the tail closely resembles its original condition.

In further support of the identification of *caesius* with *irregularis*, we have to note that, with the possible exception of *semivariegatus* Smith, 1847

(*Dendrophis (Philothamnus) semivariegata* Smith, 1847, *Ill. Zool. S. Afr.* (Rept.): pls. lix, lx, lxiv, figs. 1a-b "Bushman Flat, Cape Province") *irregularis* is the only species of the genus which extends so far west as the region of Cape Verde, the type locality of *caesius*.

In order to avoid the quite unnecessary confusion and instability which would result from the substitution of the entirely unknown name *caesius* Cloquet for the universally accepted name *irregularis* Leach, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:—

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the trivial name *caesius* Cloquet, 1818 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber irregularis*) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*:—
 - (a) *irregularis* Leach, 1819 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber irregularis*);
 - (b) *semivariegata* Smith, 1847 (as published in the combination *Dendrophis (Philothamnus) semivariegata*), the type locality of the species so named to be interpreted as specified by Bogert, 1940 (*Bull. amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **77**: 56) (trivial name of type species of *Philothamnus* Smith, 1847);
- (3) to place the generic name *Philothamnus* Smith, 1847 (gender of generic name: masculine) (type species, by monotypy: *Dendrophis (Philothamnus) semivariegata* Smith, 1847) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*;
- (4) to place the trivial name *caesius* Cloquet, 1818 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber caesius*), as proposed, in (1) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

ON THE PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAMES "RHINA" LATREILLE [1802-1803], AND "MAGDALIS" GERMAR, 1817, FOR USE RESPECTIVELY IN THEIR ACCUSTOMED SENSE (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER COLEOPTERA)

By KLAUS GÜNTHER

(Institut für Genetik der Freien Universität Berlin, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)202)

(Letter dated 5th July 1951)

In the light of the considerations set out in Commission's reference Z.N.(S.) 202, I beg the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to rule the generic names *Rhina* Latreille, [1802-1803] and *Magdalis* Germar, 1817, to be valid names, each to be used in its accustomed sense. The International